

Dear Sir

York Town March 10th 1778

I received your kind favour for Mr Torry, and am really much obliged to you for the repeated favour of your correspondence since you left this place, Mr Froubair being sick, have been deprived of that repeated Intelligence I used to have from him of my family, & sincerely rejoice that a kind Providence has so far restored him to health but yet much fear for his full recovery, as the Symptoms of his disorder appear to me of a dangerous kind, but hope for the best — Our diminished Army have lay very quiet this winter, the detachments from the enemy have ravaged the Country round about them, & lately come out upwards of twenty miles and carried off un-molested 130 head of fine Cattle sent by Col Chapman Between Delaware & Schuylkill, & it has been with the greatest difficulty that our Army have been supplied from day to day, indeed we have no fear for Flower in the Country, but the Army has been much distressed for the want of forrage their Waggon horses many dying for want of food, & the difficulty to procure Waggoners has much distressed the Army & we are still in great anxiety how to supply them with meat till the summer fed cattle may relieve them, especially as we wish for a large reinforcement as early in the spring as possible, to take ye first advantage to break up Howe's Army, before he can be reinforced, which requires every exertion of every State, the scarcity of Provisions, of forrage of carriage the exorbitant prices, our exhausted finances & every Circumstance attending our Affairs most tend to discourage & ought to animate us to a more earnest, early spirited, & most vigorous exertion. Forgive me for saying all they can, they are diligent & attentive & we seem very quiet since I went away, we have called upon & requested the Govr & Councils of the several States to give all their aid & assistance in procuring Supplies, much in ye same form as we had

Gov. Trumbull & his Council, & hope it may have  
a good effect, we have regulated the Dr. Muster Department  
appointed by Recommendation of Genl Washington & our Council  
at head Quarters, Genl Green, Major Cox & one Mr Dittit of  
the Jerseys to head the various branches of that Department  
but I fear we have not pursued the best plan for the purpose  
we have been waiting for the arrival of Col Wadsworth to  
make a new plan & regulation in the Commissary's Department  
to form it so as to be agreeable to him, but at present are  
disappointed, the principal and main business of Lower the  
Expnise was to carry letters to him, tho he had some letters  
for Boston our surpris'd at his failure in delivering the  
letters, by which means are obliged to proceed in our plan  
without his advice, but believe if gain with Templ him  
we shall put it on as favorable a footing as he could desire beside  
he will have the Appointment of all to act under him. I  
hope you will force and him here with all speed, all the paymasters  
will be on Commissions, as also his pay. am rather sorry  
our Assembly when they pass'd the Regulating Act, did not  
post pone the time for its taking effect till, at least till they  
were informed the other States came into it. yr operation must  
be suspended till abt middle June at least as to price of fat beef

I conclude yr president has sent yr resolution for building barracks,  
in Connecticut which pass'd some time ago, & also a resolution  
authorizing the Executive of every State to suspend all formal offers  
behaving known they the News of Burgoyne's defeat & surrender  
gave a shock to the Parliament house but resumed courage  
after a few days & are determin'd to attack us with redoubled  
vigor the coming season, hope we may be too soon for them  
& that the Assembly may deliver us, have now Gov & letters  
to write & must conclude by assuring you that I goe with  
sincere esteem & regard yr Obedt Servt

The Distl<sup>er</sup> mean B — he has just <sup>arriv'd</sup>  
after having <sup>been</sup> to Newport from <sup>London</sup> <sup>and</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>now</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>long</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>universal</sup>  
sorrow & of every member

soon after I finished my letter Brown arrived with  
yours of the 4th Instant, Congress with our Assembly  
had lengthened out the time of the regulating Act  
taking effect at least with respect to Beef till  
the middle of June. & have by their resolve  
recommended it to ye consideration of our Assembly  
Champion must be supplied or our Army will fail  
it is impossible to supply them <sup>wholly</sup> from the South  
we have not received accounts from ye other States  
whether they have adopted the report of the Comtee  
regulating prices

Yours  
ED

be assured there is not the most distant thought of  
removing Genl Washington, nor ever an expression  
in Congress looking that way, is a Tory lie from  
the beginning

Coll Williams

For Dyer, at  
York Town, Mar 1778

soon after I left him to  
Congress then

a red cow of my cattle  
taken on Jersey. not  
Champion's Cattle

312

MS. Ch. C. 2. 5

5249